

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-15, 20-34, and 36-37 will be pending in this application. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 14, 20-21, 23-30, and 33 have been amended. Claims 16-19 and 35 have been cancelled. New claims 36-37 have been added. Support for the new and amended claims can be found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-16, 18, and 21-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 as being indefinite. Claims 20-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101. Claims 1-2, 4-9, 16-21, 23-28, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Loong, United States patent number 7,020,864. (Loong.) Claims 3 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loong. Claims 10-13 and 19-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loong in view of Wallace, United States patent number 7,020,885. Claims 14-15 and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loong in view of Wallace and Cong et al., ("Cut Ranking and Pruning.") Reconsideration of these rejections and allowance of the pending claims in light of these amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Loong. But Loong does not teach each and every element of this claim. For example, claim 1, as amended, recites "selecting the highest ranked assignment where a first signal in the plurality of signals in the user design is assigned as a first input of the plurality of inputs to the fixed-configuration secondary hardware more than other signals in the plurality of signals in the user design are assigned to an input to the fixed-configuration secondary hardware; and implementing the user design by implementing the first signal as the first input of the plurality of inputs to the fixed-configuration secondary hardware." Loong does not provide this feature.

For at least this reason, claim 1 should be allowed.

Other claims

Claims 20 and 36 should be allowed for similar reasons as claim 1. The other claims depend on one of the above claims and should be allowed for at least the same reasons and for the additional limitations they recite.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal notice of allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

/ J. Matthew Zigmant /

J. Matthew Zigmant  
Reg. No. 44,005

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: 415-576-0200  
Fax: 415-576-0300  
Attachments  
JMZ:jmz  
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